

Living Our Lives

Soren Kierkegaard said, "Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forward." It is only in looking back that I can see how God prepares us for the events of our lives. When some of the things that happened while I was growing up happened, I only wondered why. Now, I see, for instance, that my father, a minister himself, choosing me to do so many things alongside him when I was only a teenager prepared me for the leadership roles I would play in the church much later. All of the events and places I have been in my life----the youth camps, overseas missions, college and seminary experiences, and the military ----all of that has and still is preparing me for where I am right now and will be in the future. The sum of all the places God has placed me has helped my organizational skills, patience, compassion, ability and drive to work hard. Even though sometimes I wondered why God placed me where He placed me, I can see it much more clearly now.

In looking backward I can see some things----but life must be lived forward, and I don't know about tomorrow, but it is exciting for me to understand that God is, even today, preparing me for tomorrow. The things that are happening in my life today will prepare me to do what God has for me to do in the future. God is right now preparing you for what He has for you too. When you are tempted to ask the "why questions" about your circumstances, remember that all things happen for a purpose. It is through the sum total experiences of life that God prepares us for what lies ahead. How is God preparing you and what are you learning through your life circumstances? It is important to consider this as you approach every event of your lives.